(1) Domestic Forest Resources Increasing
- 69% of land area covered with forests. 40% of forests planted by human activities.
- Volume of forest stock rapidly increasing, reaching 4.9 billion m$^3$ in 2012. Annual increment is 100 million m$^3$. More than half of planted forest are old enough for use as wood products.

(2) Annual Growth of Forest Enough for Domestic Wood Demand
- With the volume of wood demand in Japan at 78 million m$^3$ in 2016, annual increment is enough to satisfy total demand. However, most of domestic demand satisfied with imports from other countries (Self-sufficiency ratio: 35%).
- The major challenge of Japan’s forestry is “underuse” of forest resources.

(3) Transforming Forestry into a “Leading Industry”
- Sustainable use of matured forest resources could revitalize local economy, creating new income and job opportunities in rural areas.
- GOJ stipulates “transforming forestry into a leading industry” through creation of wood demand and stable supply of domestic wood in national economic policies.
- For the creation of wood demand, GOJ promoting the development of new market segments, through i) promotion of wooden public buildings, ii) energy use of woody biomass, and iii) education of consumers.
2. Wood Use Promotion in Japan

(1) Promotion of Wooden Public Buildings

- In 2010, the Diet introduced the “Act for the Promotion of Wood Use in Public Buildings,” requiring the Government to take the lead in wood use in public buildings.

- Government is required to construct all the public building of three stories or lower with wood structure. Local governments are also required to take similar policies.

- The ratio of wooden public building of three stories or lower rose to 26.0% in 2015.

(2) Energy Use of Woody Biomass

- In 2012, the “Feed-in Tariff (FIT) Scheme” introduced, which obliges electric power companies to procure electricity from renewable sources, incl. woody biomass, at a fixed price. 61 woody biomass power plants are operating.

- Volume of woody biomass used for energy supply increased five times from 2012 to 2016.

- Policy focus will shift from large-scale power generation to small-scale heat/CHP use.

(3) Education of Consumers

- Since 2005, the GOJ is promoting the “Kizukai (due care for wood use)” as a national campaign for the enhancement of consumers’ awareness on the importance of wood use, including award for wood use (“Wood Design Award”) and education for children (“Wooducation”).

- The movement emphasizes that wood use is a part of the cycle of sustainable forest management through harvesting, using, planting, and growing.
3. Cycle of “Kizukai” (due care for wood use)